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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 79 - State Personnel - Education and Transportation - Grievance Procedures
Senate Finance Committee
February 2, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and esteemed members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present today on my legislation – SB 79. The bill removes archaic language from the higher education grievance procedure that prevents employees from filing grievances when they have been paid incorrectly. It also extends to higher education and transportation employees the provision that allows state employees to grieve for damages when there are errors in their checks.

Damages begin accruing after the employee has filed the grievance and increase by 30% each pay period after that up to 3 times the amount in wages that were withheld.

Since HB1144/CH0783 passed in 2017, state employees in the State Personnel Management System (SPMS) have been able to get paycheck issues resolved much faster.

SB 79 is necessary because higher education and transportation employees also experience delays at times with getting their paycheck issues resolved. This can cause late bill payments, delays in paying rents and mortgages, and so on.

It's only fair that our state employees who work in MDOT and in Higher Education have the same right to grieve for damages when paycheck errors occur that our state employees in the executive branch have.

I have worked closely with AFSCME members in crafting this legislation. I urge a favorable report and thank you for your consideration.